Guide to the use of the AW32 Gond file

[There are approximately three million people in India who are either members of Gond tribes or Gondi-speaking groups. These groups are spread over much of Central India, including Central Provinces and Bastar State. The Gond refers to himself as Koi or Koitor, but over most of the area the Hindu term "Gond" is used by outsiders. Where the Gonds have become relatively Hinduized and are accepted as separate Hindu castes, such names as these occur: Raj-Gond, Raj-Korku, Raja-Muria, Naik Gond, Pit-Bhattra.

The Bastar State census lists the following Gond groups: Bhattra, Gond, Maria, Muria, Koya, and Parja. Elwin divides the Maria into the Hill Maria and the Bison Horn Maria. The Muria are more acculturated than the Maria, and the term Muria is employed by Maria groups trying to advance socially.

4: Furer-Haimendorf gives the researcher a general view of Gond culture and an idea of the distribution of non-Bastar Gonds. Inasmuch as this file is limited to the relatively unacculturated Bison Horn Maria, Hill Maria, and Muria, such distributional information may be necessary.

Guide to the use of the AW32 Gond file

The basic source for this file is 1: Grigson. This source deals with the Bison Horn and Hill Maria, and gives a well-rounded ethnographic description of the groups, covering social structure, life cycle, religion, economic life, etc.

2: Elwin concentrates on the Muria, particularly the institution of the communal adolescent dwelling. A general description of Muria culture is given in the first part of the work, as background to the study of the ghotul.

3: Elwin deals with the Bison Horn Maria. It covers the reasons underlying murder and suicide in Gond culture, and includes data on such topics as witchcraft, ingroup hostility, property disputes, etc.

Data on the ghotul (communal adolescent dwelling) will be found in category 883. Data on administrative divisions have been filed in category 632.]

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